



Christmas Events & Tier 3

You will likely already know that Derbyshire has been categorised as being in Tier 3 meaning we have the tightest restrictions to prevent CV19 from spreading. This is an incredibly difficult situation for school and at the time of year when we desperately want to provide you and the children with those treasured festive memories. At 8.00am today, the DfE published specific guidance for schools regarding performances and local tier groups. This is the relevant section:

Organised performances

Settings in [local restriction tier 3](#): very high alert areas should not host performances with an audience. In these cases, settings should use alternative methods such as live streaming and recording, subject to the usual safeguarding considerations and parental permissions.

Myself, Governors and staff have thought very carefully, and I hope innovatively, to still offer the best Christmas experience for Hague Bar Primary.

Light Up New Mills: The window displays will still be produced by the children but unfortunately we will have to cancel the evening event on December 4th as this would be a 'gathering'. Instead grown-ups collecting children at home-time can, if they wish, view the school windows with their child/children by coming into the playground. Admission will be directed by staff (with only a certain number of people permitted at a time and groups must only be household bubbles) at the gate and will incorporate a one-way system. It will be a requirement that participants adhere to all Tier 3 rules for outdoors. This is envisaged to be a 'walking tour' with no gathering.

Christmas Performances: I am very sorry to say that not all of these will go ahead as planned. I have communicated extensively with Governors (most of whom are parents) and staff and hope we have found a good balance between celebrating Christmas whilst keeping within the rules. Here are our revised plans which I hope you will support.

Musical Delight

All children will perform a song/musical instrument/poem on one afternoon at the school gate whilst parents wait to collect children at home time. Any adults waiting for children must adhere to social distancing and Tier 3 rules. We will open the school gates to allow maximum viewing and space between households. This is not a gathering.

Haddon: Friday December 11th 2.45pm

Hartington: Monday December 14th 3.15pm

Hassop: Tuesday December 15th 3.15pm

Home Performance All children will rehearse a solo festive performance to perform at home on Christmas Day. The children will send their family a very special invitation to announce this. Please be 'surprised' when you receive this!



Haddon's Nativity As Haddon class have already been practising their nativity this will be performed to the other classes separately in school (distantly) during the last week or so. However, we would also like to share this with Haddon families and I have two Tier 3 friendly options: **videoing** or **photographing** the nativity. I will be emailing/phoning all Haddon parents requesting permission for these. The videoing will be an 'all or nothing' decision ie if somebody is not given permission to be videoed then we will not video the nativity. I do not say this to pressurise anybody, as all parents have the right to this choice and indeed may have personal reasons why this is the right decision for their child, but in practical terms we cannot exclude children from a performance and staff do not have sufficient filming/editing skills to digitally remove somebody from a video. We also strongly feel all children should take part. Any film showing another child must not be published publically and this would need to be agreed to by all Haddon parents.

If the nativity cannot be recorded live, then my next suggestion is for staff to photograph the nativity (which we could edit out any child/ren necessary) then produce a mini nativity book which would be sent home. Again, no public sharing of photos would be permitted of children other than your own and I would need confirmation of this from all Haddon parents.

Live Nativity Performance Haddon class, many of whom have not taken part in a nativity before, will retain the hope of performing live to Haddon household bubbles IF we are released from Tier 3. This performance will take place on **Wednesday December 16th at 2pm** (this is a change of date and I apologise we cannot use the original date). Again, this is planned as an outdoor, socially distant performance requiring your warmest coat and hat. If this is not permitted by local tier rules on this date, then it will be cancelled.

Hartington & Hassop Performance These older classes will prepare live performances in 2021 (spring or summer term) when restrictions have relaxed further. These will therefore not be Christmas themed.

I expect some of these changes to be a disappointment for several parents and carers and I apologise if this is so. Myself, staff and Governors have put hours and hours of thought into these alternative plans, and I hope you can understand the difficulties we have had to overcome in arranging a Tier 3 friendly Christmas for everyone.

Kind regards as always

Mrs Parry, Governors and Staff